

on the three specimens above, two of which were sent to me by Mr. A. C. Frederick, Albany, New York, and the third contained in his collection, any doubt as to the occurrence of this species within the limits of the United States should now be removed.

A New Species of Oedematocera with Notes and key (Tachinidae, Diptera)¹.

By H. J. REINHARD, College Station, Texas.

The relationships of this genus were discussed by Aldrich in 1928 (Ent. News, 39: 301-4). In this reference it is pointed out that Townsend's *Schistocercophaga*, proposed for *Oedematocera dampfi* Ald., is characterized largely in the form of a comparison with *Hypophorinia*. Aldrich cited at least five important characters which show that these genera differ widely from each other and are not members of even the same tribe. Subsequently Townsend placed *Schistocercophaga* in the tribe Hyperecteinini, along with *Oedematocera*, far removed from *Hypophorinia* in the tribe Phoriniini. In the latest key to Hyperecteinini (Townsend, Manual of Myiology, Part IV: 162) the two supposed genera trace to the same couplet and are separated on the difference of one frontal bristle beneath the base of the antennae and some variation in the length of the third antennal segment in the male sex. Neither these characters nor any listed in the recent generic diagnoses (loc. cit., Part X: 310, 313-14) show outstanding differences common to both sexes and apparently *Schistocercophaga* is superfluous, as Aldrich has already pointed out. The following key will assist in distinguishing the species of *Oedematocera*, including one new, described below.

¹ Contribution No. 707, Division of Entomology, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

KEY TO SPECIES OF OEDEMATOCERA.

1. Abdomen black or at least with distinct dark markings 2.
Abdomen wholly yellow; pleura pale pilose; prosternum bare; antennae and arista very long; male without orbitals and with facial ridges strongly bulged or convex in profile (Ohio, North Carolina to New England) .. *flaveola* Coq.
2. Prosternum setose or bristled 3.
Prosternum bare 4.
3. Scutellum and abdomen wholly black; third antennal segment 3 to 4 times longer than second; arista thickened hardly to middle (Texas and Georgia to New England) *gilvipes* Coq.
Scutellum and abdomen largely reddish yellow; third antennal segment 5 to 6 times longer than second; arista thickened on proximal three-fifths (New York) *optata*, n. sp.
4. Thorax with two broad well defined blackish stripes; cheek about one-eighth eye height; first abdominal segment without median marginals, female only (Panama) *striata* Ald.
Thorax with four narrow indistinct brownish stripes; cheek nearly one-third eye height; first abdominal segment with a pair of median marginals (Mexico) *dampfii* Ald.

Oedematocera optata n. sp.

♂. Front at vertex 0.32 of head width, widening gradually downward to antennal base; parafrontal gray pollinose, wider than the reddish brown middle stripe; verticals two pairs but the outer much smaller than inner ones; frontals in a single row which hardly diverges anteriorly, two lowermost bristles beneath base of antennae; orbitals two proclinate pairs; ocellars proclinate and divaricate; face very deeply impressed, its lateral ridges nearly vertical and weakly bristled on lowest fourth; parafacial subsilvery, bare, narrowed downward to less than one-half width of third antennal segment; vibrissae strong, decussate, on oral margin; epistoma nearly as wide as clypeus and in plane of same; antennae as long as face, reddish yellow with third segment slightly darker, latter five or six times longer than second segment; arista finely pubescent, thickened on basal three-fifths which is reddish yellow, proximal segments short but distinct; cheek gray pollinose, nearly bare or with a few pale hairs along lower edge, about one-fifth eye-height; eyes bare; proboscis short, labella large, pale yellow; palpi slightly thickened apically, yellow; back of head flattened, gray pollinose, sparsely clothed with short pale hairs.

Thorax blackish, gray pollinose, with four dark dorsal stripes, outer ones broadly interrupted at suture and reduced to a triangular spot in front; scutellum reddish yellow in ground color beyond basal margin above. Chaetotaxy: acrostichal 2, 3; dorsocentral 3, 3; intraalar 3; supraalar 3; presutural 2; notopleural 2; posthumeral 2; humeral 3; postalar 2; pteropleural 1 (small); sternopleural 3 (lower front one small); scutellum with 3 lateral, 1 small divergent apical and 1 depressed subdiscal pair; sides of postnotum beneath calypters bare; prosternum with a single minute hair at each side; propleura bare; calypters opaque, whitish with a faint tawny tinge.

Abdomen reddish yellow with a black median vitta above which widens behind to include posterior margin of third segment and all of fourth, entire upper surface lightly dusted with pale yellowish gray patternless pollen; basal segments each with one pair of median marginal bristles; intermediate segments with a pair of discal bristles besides a marginal row on third; anal segment with a discal and a marginal row; genitalia reddish yellow, retracted; inner forceps moderately stout, divided and slightly divergent apically; outer forceps finger-like, narrower in profile than inner ones but nearly as long; fifth sternite wholly reddish yellow, with a rather shallow U-shaped apical incision, lobes sparsely beset with fine black hairs.

Legs reddish yellow with tarsi dark brown to blackish; hind tibiae not ciliated; claws and pulvilli short.

Wings gray hyaline with a faint tawny tinge near base and on costal margin; first vein bare, third with two hairs near base; fourth vein with a broad, even, stumpless bend; first posterior cell narrowly open shortly before exact wing tip; hind cross vein a trifle nearer bend than small cross vein; last section of fifth vein hardly two-fifths length of preceding section; costal spine vestigial.

♀.—Front at vertex 0.36 of head-width in one specimen; third antennal segment narrower and paler than in male; two sternopleurals; abdomen largely blackish above; genitalia retracted, not adapted for piercing; otherwise very similar to male.

Length: 6-7 mm.

Holotype: Male, "NEW YORK, July 8, 1935". *Allotype*, female, Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, New York, August 20, 1927 (H. C. Hallock). The latter specimen, donated by H. C. Hallock, bears an Aldrich determination label, "*Oedematocera flavcola* Coq." There appears little doubt that this is the opposite sex of the male described above. The presence of orbitals in the latter and the setose prosternum indicate a closer relationship with *gilvipes* than with *flavcola*.